

REMARKS

The amendments are based on the parent application as originally filed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The required reference to the parent application has been added to page 1.

References to published international application WO97/09842 are supplemented with references to the counterpart US application 08/707,012 (pages 2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14).

Terminology used in the summary disclosure of the invention (pages 2-3) have been changed to conform to terminology now used in the claims.

Two international applications, referred to as "Annex A" (page 4, line 4) and "Annex B" (page 5, line 24) and filed with the parent application, are thereby expressly incorporated by reference in the parent application and in this application. Copies of these two documents are filed with this application as well. In order to comply with the formalities of M.P.E.P. §608.01(p), the counterpart U.S. applications have been added as the basis for incorporation by reference.

A grammatical error on page 8 has been corrected.

An abstract (page 23) has been added as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b).

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The amendments to the claims place them in better form for examination by eliminating improper multiple dependencies (and adding additional claims as needed to maintain coverage); by using proper Markush groups or additional claims in place of alternative recitations as needed; by clarifying certain recitations; and by insuring consistent terminology throughout.

The preambles of most of the claims have been changed to a "loudspeaker assembly" so as to characterize the claimed invention more accurately. With these changes, claim 31 became superfluous and therefore was canceled.

Unnecessary "means" recitations (in claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 23) have been replaced by structural recitations ("transducer," "support," "cavity," "surface").

Claim 1 has been revised to clarify the implicit: that *at least one* transducer may be used to excite vibration in the panel-form member. For the sake of accuracy, the panel-form member is now recited as "adapted to be resonant at audio frequencies." The marginal location of the at least one transducer is now specified, as is the partial clamping/restraint of the panel-form member. Claim 18 (marginal clamping/restraint) -- now redundant -- has been canceled.

With the addition of marginal transducer location to claim 1, the focus of claims 7 and 8 (which would have been redundant) has been changed to "pairs" of vibration exciting transducers and, in the case of claim 8, direct coupling.

For the sake of clarity, claim 21 now recites that the shallowness of the cavity affects the modal behavior of the panel-form member.

Two of the three alternative recitations in claim 23 have been moved to separate new claims 38 and 39.

New claims 36 and 37 restate the subject matter of claims 15 and 16, respectively, but with different dependency.

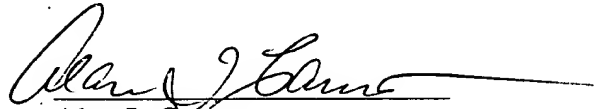
No new matter is introduced by any of the above amendments.

The application is now in good form for examination. Early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



Alan I. Cantor
Reg. No. 28,163

FOLEY & LARDNER
Suite 500
3000 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007-5109
(202) 672-5300